

Aptimized Research

# **Informatica Intelligent Cloud Services (IICS): Licensing & Considerations**

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## Informatica Intelligent Cloud Services (IICS): Licensing & Considerations

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### Overview – The Challenge

#### Key Findings:

Complex organizations should consider leveraging an integration platform to ease the pain points of integrating systems and processes.

Despite a growing consensus among systems on the standards (i.e., REST, JSON/XML, RPC) to communicate data and requests for service, quite often systems integrate neither seamlessly nor without data quality issues. Your customer-facing order system does not operate with the same protocols and rules as your matured ERP. Nonetheless, organizations require these integrations to support distributed processes.

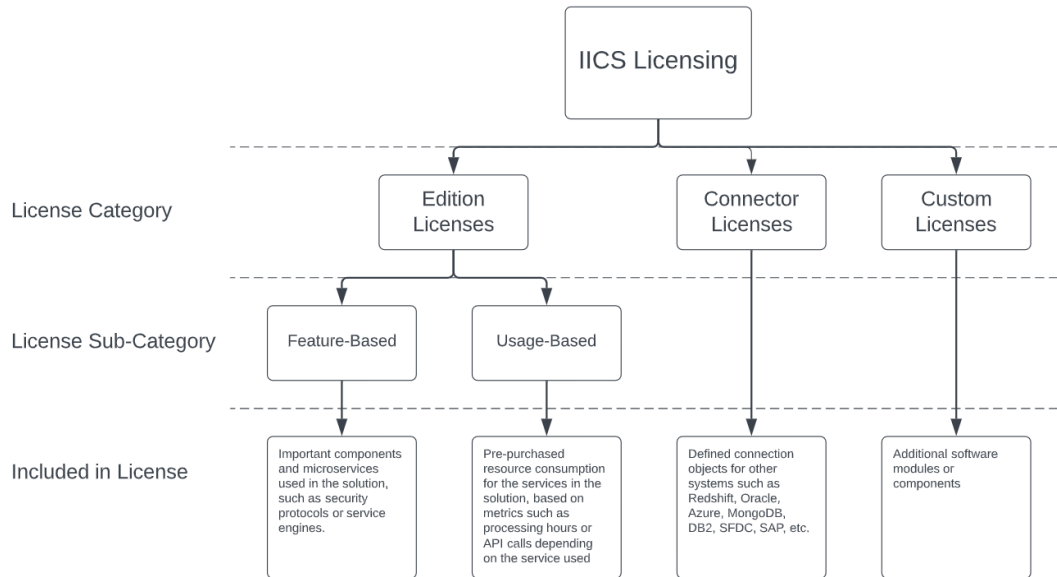
A software provisioning process, for instance, may begin in compliance and feed data through multiple systems and milestones before an external service spins up a SaaS tenant. These complex processes require not only integration, but also data management and quality services.

To handle the challenges of integrating infrastructure, organizations leverage process and data management platforms such as Informatica Intelligent Cloud Services (IICS). In IICS rollouts, organizations should assess licensing in terms of how they leverage the services – effective use of the platform will avoid unnecessary licensing costs. This whitepaper breaks down fundamental IICS licensing considerations via two common IICS services – Cloud Data Integration and Cloud Application Integration.

### Breakdown of Informatica Licensing

Informatica breaks their licensing into three categories – edition licenses, connector licenses, and custom licenses. Edition licensing incurs costs based on resource consumption (called usage-based licenses) and/or features provisioned (called feature-based licenses). Informatica offers additional licenses for certain connector types such as Amazon Redshift or Oracle connectors. An IICS solution typically involves a combination of edition usage-based licenses, edition feature-based licenses, and connector licenses. A solution can also include custom licenses for additional features or software bundles.

*Licensing Paradigm Example:*



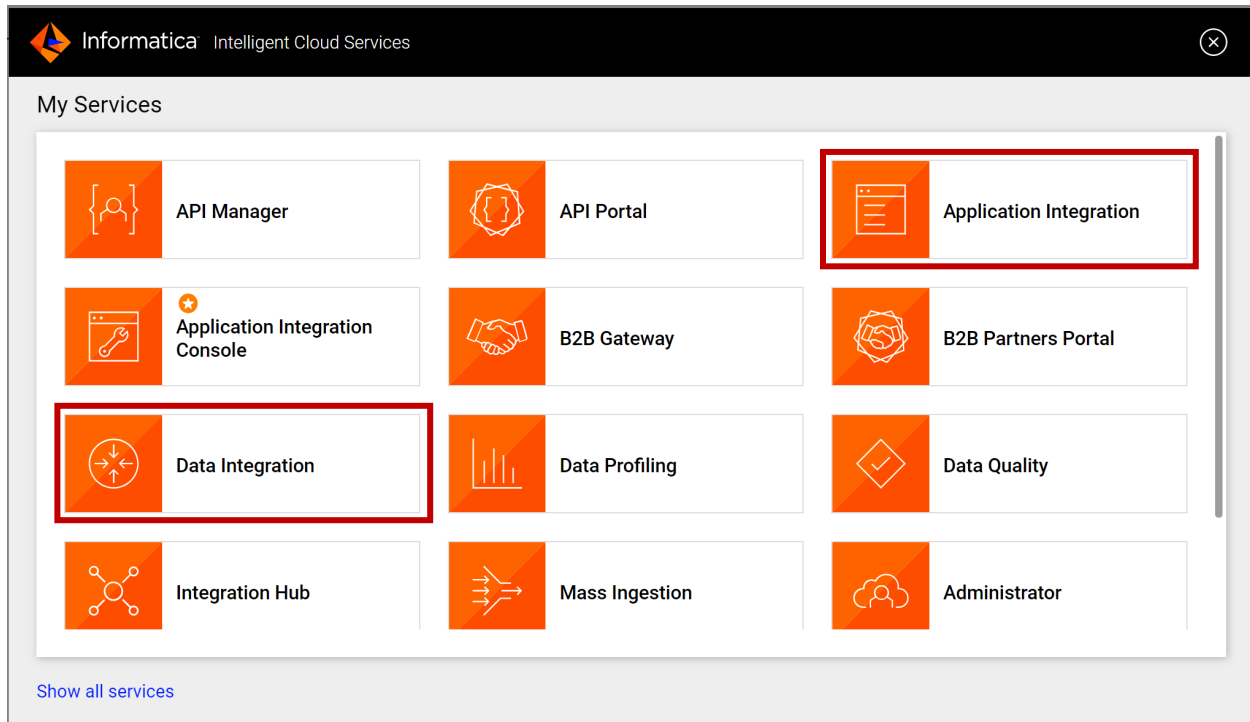
In usage-based licensing, IICS services consume the provisioned Informatica Processing Units (IPUs) using a metric, called a Scalar, that can vary among the services. Example of possible scalars include compute units (hours), the quantity of API calls made, the volume of data synchronized, or the quantity of events processed. Each service in usage-based licensing utilizes only one of the scalars.

If an organization goes beyond the resource cap defined by the license terms, then the organization may require additional IPUs to support the excess usage. In this case, an organization should always analyze the use of its IICS services and consider refactoring the technical solution(s) in a more effective manner.

Both the Cloud Data Integration (CDI) and Cloud Application Integration (CAI) services meet fundamental integration use cases and follow the **usage-based licensing** paradigm based on **compute units (processing hours)**. The following section describes a scenario where refactoring processing logic from one service to another can cut down on resource consumption.

## Effective Use of Services and Impact on Licensing: CDI and CAI

Your organization should understand the purpose of each IICS service to use the platform effectively and within a planned licensing framework. For example, CDI and CAI differ slightly in their intended use cases, but both follow usage-based licensing via compute units.



- Cloud Data Integration** restructures and moves sets of data returned from a completed process to a target system. For example, a wholesale company may calculate pricing at the end of the day in an ERP system, and leverage CDI to write the updated data to an FTP site that synchronizes with a storefront before business hours. Data Integration should connect with a source, transform the data, and move the data to the target. Leveraging Data Integration to orchestrate multiple calls to multiple systems directly can be cumbersome and result in inefficient resource consumption.

If an organization utilizes CDI to orchestrate multiple requests with other systems, then the organization should consider refactoring the solution in CAI. This approach cuts down on computational resource consumption, reducing IPU usage.

- Cloud Application Integration** connects multiple systems involved in a single process. For example, data from orders placed in a customer-facing system feed through Informatica CAI to call the payment, order fulfillment, and invoicing services that the company utilizes. Leveraging CAI to process a large CSV file, for instance, will be inefficient and consume more compute units than the same processing in CDI. An organization should leverage CDI for this purpose.

There are many services within the platform, each for slightly different use cases. The above examples intend to demonstrate the fundamental consideration in leveraging IICS services correctly. Understanding the purpose of each tool in the IICS Solution will help establish a baseline knowledge of how the solution architecture will affect your Licensing.

## Establishing Your Licensing Model

### Recommendations

- Acquire or have an experienced resource who can correctly solution and plan licensing requirements.
- Use the Aptimized method to plan for you license consumption.
- Build a roadmap for tools and processes that support your business.
- Take advantage of economies of scale and strategic partners like Aptimized.

### How are Enterprises Responding?

Executive leaders must consider a range of possible outcomes – positive, negative, and entirely new. These outcomes become scenarios that enable executive leaders to think ahead and build contingency plans.

Solutioning your system without an experienced resource can result in some negative impacts:

- Unnecessary licensing costs
- Inefficient computation – time wasted in execution downtime

Ensuring you plan and analyze your use case pragmatically will avoid the unneeded expenditure of time and money.

## Planning Next Steps

So – what's next for your company? What is on the other side of this transition. In short, your licensing strategy will need to consider:

- An existing IICS solution can be analyzed to determine if the effort to refactor will save time/money in the future
- In a new or existing rollout, an organization should understand the objective(s) of system (integrated process, ingestion of large dataset, data quality analysis, etc.)
- An organization should determine the IICS Services to fulfill the objective(s) of the middleware system
- An organization should understand the corresponding IICS Licensing Model associated with high-level constraints and design of the system



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